

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Current Use of Smokeless Tobacco by High School Students
Justification	Approximately 75% of oral cavity and pharyngeal cancers are attributed to the use of smoked and smokeless tobacco. Use of smokeless tobacco also causes gum recession and an increased risk of heart disease and stroke.
Definition	Percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reporting use of “chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip” on one or more days within the past 30 days
Data Source	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Frequency	Biennial
Geographic Levels	National and State
Demographic Categories	Grade Level, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity
Strengths	<p>YRBSS is the only national source that currently provides state-level prevalence estimates on current use of smokeless tobacco among youth. YRBSS estimates typically are based on larger samples than the National Survey of Drug Use and Health, and can be further broken down by grade level, gender, and race/ethnicity. Some states also collect YRBSS data for individual communities or school districts, which can be compared with their state-level data.</p>
Limitations	<p>This measure does not convey the lifetime or current amount of chewing tobacco used. As of 2003, weighted representative samples were only available for 32 states. Not all states participate, and some participating states do not provide representative samples. YRBSS is a school-based survey, so students who have dropped out of school are not represented. It is also subject to bias due to self-report, non-coverage (refusal by selected schools to participate), and non-response (refusal/no answer). Estimates for some demographic subgroups may have relatively low precision (i.e., large confidence intervals).</p>